

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REFLECTIONS ON THE 53RD
ANNIVERSARY OF V-J DAY

• Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor, thank, and remember the men and women who fought so bravely to protect our freedoms during World War II. As my colleagues know, it was 53 years ago today that Japan officially surrendered to the Allies, prompting President Truman's declaration of September 2nd as Victory-Over-Japan Day, or V-J Day.

That monumental declaration marked the end of the most immense and devastating war the world has ever seen—a war that shaped not only the course of history but also the lives of the many brave Americans who, through their service in the U.S. military, fought to restore freedom to lands halfway around the world.

These young Americans were thrust into a situation best described by General William Sherman when he said, quite simply, that war is hell. It is safe to say they experienced horrors and fear most of us cannot begin to comprehend.

To gain some understanding of the realities of war and of the heroism exhibited during World War II, let me take you back to December 7, 1941. The place was Pearl Harbor. George Albert Enloe, a young Navy flyer from Anoka, Minnesota, had just two days earlier turned 26 years old. Before that day he had never really known the realities of war. Here is part of the diary entry he made on that Sunday describing the surprise Japanese attack:

I can, and will always, remember the bullets that sprayed past me as I ducked into the hanger. Ensign Fox and Ensign Willis were right behind me. Fox was killed; Willis got through with a bullet through his head. The bullets came through the hanger as though it was made of paper . . . I understood then what it means to be "under fire." Before, these were just words. But I found myself actually there. I was scared. I forced myself to stay. We kept shooting.

Enloe survived that day and went on to serve for five more years in the military. In that short period, he became one of the most decorated combat pilots in the entire Navy and just last month, the City of Anoka dedicated a park in his honor.

Unfortunately, as years pass and our nation enjoys one of its greatest periods of prosperity, too many Americans, especially young Americans, are unaware of the sacrifices made and the lessons taught to us by the likes of George Enloe.

In Winona, Minnesota, for example, a young man was recently found guilty of vandalizing flagpoles at a veterans park. What makes this act even more disheartening is that, according to the corrections agent who handled the case, the teen "did not really know what a veteran was."

Thankfully, the judge understood the importance of educating this young man on the sacrifices made by those

who have served our nation's military. The sentence handed down by the judge required the teen to see and then write a report on the movie "Saving Private Ryan."

At a time when the movies and TV are saturated with senseless violence, this film exposes Americans to a bleakly realistic portrait of war—a war in which large numbers of Americans fought heroically in the worst conditions imaginable and often died horrible deaths in a battle against oppression. "Saving Private Ryan" is a violent film, just as war is violent. It is a disturbing film, as it ought to be.

I hope that young vandal walked out of the theater with some sense of what a veteran truly is. I hope "Saving Private Ryan" will help to raise that awareness in all Americans. During this time of relative peace, we cannot turn a blind eye to the sacrifices of the past. We must remember that our ability to speak freely, choose a place of worship, and pursue the American dream were protected by every man, every woman who served in World War II. Above all, we must never take for granted what our veterans have taught us, the lesson that is chiseled into the stone of the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC—"Freedom Is Not Free."

On the anniversary of the official end of World War II, I encourage Americans to take time today to thank and remember our veterans. Whether they are a neighbor, a friend, or a grandparent, ask about their experiences during that turbulent time. Through their sacrifices, freedom and prosperity have flourished. Tell them they are appreciated.

Mr. President, I have taken a few moments to try to put into perspective the magnitude of the sacrifices made by our young soldiers during World War II. I know that my words are wholly inadequate in reflecting the experiences of those brave men and women. Perhaps understanding ultimately lies not in words, but in actions—the actions of every veteran who swore an oath to defend our sacred freedom from "all enemies, foreign and domestic."

We are duty-bound to pass on those experiences to future generations of Americans, to ensure they know the stories, sacrifices, pain, and ultimate triumph of World War II. For their sake and for the sake of this nation, we must never let another young American forget what a veteran is.●

TRUTH IN BUDGETING

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, there has been quite a bit of discussion in Washington recently about the need to tell the truth. Well, I have always believed people should tell the truth—in private and in public. That is why I have long opposed the biggest lie, the biggest fraud in this town—the so-called federal budget surplus. The truth is there is no surplus. We continue to borrow money from federal

trust funds—mainly Social Security—to mask the budget deficit. Meanwhile, the national debt skyrockets.

I rise today, Mr. President, to draw the Senate's attention to an editorial which appeared in the Sunday, August 30, 1998 edition of the Spartanburg Herald-Journal, published in Spartanburg, SC. This editorial points out the fraudulent nature of the budget surplus and criticizes Congress and the President for failing to tell the American people the truth about the budget. I quote the Herald-Journal: "The truth can be seen in the national debt. That debt is continuing to grow and will keep growing over the next few years. Your budget is not balanced if you continue to go deeper and deeper into debt each year."

The editorial goes on to argue that our priority should be to balance the budget honestly and begin to reduce our national debt, rather than give in to the near-term appeal of further tax cuts—no matter how much merit the individual cuts may have. Mr. President, I have been beating this drum for years now. For the past two years, for example, I have offered budget resolutions to urge we stay the course to balance the budget and begin to reduce the debt.

In fact, I support many of the proposed tax cuts. I have consistently supported making health insurance costs for the self-employed 100 percent deductible, and I have voted to eliminate the marriage penalty three times in this year alone. But each time I have also voted to pay for these tax cuts, so that we stay on course to balance the budget. This should be our top priority. Only by reducing the national debt will we be able to whittle away at our whopping \$363 billion in annual interest costs.

I have been trying for years to get the media to expose this fraud Washington perpetrates on the American people. Yet many in the media—people entrusted to report the truth—continue to report a surplus. I am glad to see that at least one newspaper in my home state of South Carolina has seen through this smoke screen. Mr. President, I ask that the entire editorial be printed in the RECORD.

The editorial follows:

[From the Spartanburg Herald-Journal, Aug. 30, 1998]

RIGHT CUTS, WRONG TIME

SOME LAWMAKERS ARE PROPOSING A SET OF
WORTHY TAX CUTS AT THE WRONG TIME

Some Republicans in the U.S. House have devised a worthy package of \$78 billion in tax cuts. But this year is not the time to cut taxes.

Despite the rhetoric coming from Washington, there is no budget surplus to spend—not on tax cuts, not on education, not even on Social Security.

Leaders of both parties in Congress and at the White House are claiming that they have balanced the budget. But they make their claim by not counting the money they are borrowing from federal trust funds, including Social Security.

The truth can be seen in the national debt. That debt is continuing to grow and will

keep growing over the next few years. Your budget is not balanced if you continue to go deeper and deeper into debt each year.

Reducing that debt should be Congress' top priority. Leaders in Washington have already wasted years of a boom economy in which they could have been paying down the debt. They should not waste any more time. They will not even be able to claim a balanced budget if an economic downturn upsets their budget forecasts.

That's why the GOP tax cut plans should be rejected along with President Clinton's spending plans.

The tax cuts offered by House Republicans are even-handed worthwhile cuts.

The plan would raise the standard deduction for married couples to eliminate the marriage penalty some couples incur when they combine their incomes filing jointly.

Under the GOP plan, self-employed taxpayers and employees who have to pay for their own health insurance could deduct 100 percent of that cost.

House Republicans also would let senior citizens earn more money before they start losing Social Security benefits. And they would restore tax credits for businesses for research and development. These would be beneficial tax cuts. But they shouldn't be the highest priority in this budget year.

Tax cut advocates will point out that citizens pay too much in taxes, that the government takes too big a bite out of its citizens' incomes. And they are correct. The government is too big and it takes too much of our money to support it.

But long-term concerns demand paying down the national debt first. If that debt isn't reduced soon, the chance for real and lasting tax cuts will be postponed for decades.

It is tempting in an election year to push for tax cuts. But politicians should not push for short-term political gains and taxpayers should not push for short-term financial gains.

Our national interest and our future demands that we reduce the national debt before increasing spending or reducing taxes.●

RELIEF FOR SMALL BANKS

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in support of S. 2346, legislation which seeks to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand S corporation eligibility for small banks. Expanding S corporation eligibility will greatly benefit small banks and, in this period of increased competition, help them as they strive to compete with credit unions and megabanks.

At present, most banks are classified as C corporations, which subjects them to the double taxation of profits. Earnings at banks classified as C corporations are taxed first at corporate level and, after earnings on stockholders shares are distributed, again by shareholders. Converting to an S corporation is an attractive option for small banks because it eliminates the corporate level income tax and allows greater earnings, often between 30 and 40 percent, to be passed on to shareholders.

Subchapter S of the Internal Revenue Code was first enacted in 1958 to reduce the tax burden on small business corporations. Since then, the Subchapter S provisions have been modified sev-

eral times, most recently in 1982 and 1996. The changes most recently instituted reflect Republican efforts to relieve the tax burden on small businesses.

The relatively low number of small banks which have made the conversion, however, indicate that Congress needs to take additional steps to liberalize the requirements for conversion to Subchapter S. Many bankers tell me that the excessive regulatory burden placed on our banks often makes conversion to an S corporation an onerous process and discourages small banks from making the change. This must change.

This legislation will amend current law to help facilitate the conversion to an S corporation. Among the reforms is an increase in the number of S corporation eligible shareholders from 75 to 150; the ability of S corporation shares to be held as Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs); the provision that any stock that bank directors must hold under banking regulations shall not be a disqualifying second class of stock; and permission for banks to deduct bad debt charge offs over the same number of years that the accumulated bad debt reserve must be recaptured.

These provisions, and others included in the legislation, will allow more banks to convert to S corporations. The result will be more efficient, more competitive small banks. And the consumer will be the ultimate beneficiary. I applaud Senator ALLARD for introducing this legislation. I believe it is a positive step that will help maintain a balanced playing field among the financial service industries and I urge the Senate Finance Committee to act on it quickly.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM FOSTER AND THE MARCHING 100

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, as we approach a new century, I recognize one of the giants of the 20th century: Dr. William Foster, Chairman of the Music Department and Director of Bands at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida.

After enriching the lives of thousands of students, and entertaining millions around the globe via superlative performances of The Marching 100 band, Dr. Foster is retiring. A special tribute will be held honoring him in Tallahassee on September 4, 1998.

Dr. Foster's service to Florida A&M University and the field of music spans half a century. His genius was in melding the varied sounds of musical instruments—along with unique choreography—into one of the most celebrated and sought-after marching bands in the world.

With each performance, The Marching 100 band proves the axiom that music is an international language. And its director, Dr. Foster, is music's Ambassador at Large, lifting the spirits of all who heard the glorious sounds of this talented group and saw the

high-stepping moves that set this band apart from all others.

Mr. President, this is the time of year that we send our children and grandchildren back to school to begin another academic year. As a nation, we focus on the vital role of education.

Dr. Foster personifies the finest attributes of an educator. He passed on knowledge to thousands, he built teamwork and instilled discipline, and he had fun along the way.

The educational leadership of Dr. Foster is one of the reasons why Florida A&M University is ranked among America's leading institutions of higher learning. Last year, Florida A&M University was cited as "College of the Year" by editors of TIME magazine and The Princeton Review.

Mr. President, I have been honored to visit Florida A&M University on many occasions. I have experienced the spirit on campus, in the classrooms and among the greater Florida A&M University family of alumni, faculty, administrators, and students.

And, I have experienced the special joy of watching and listening to The Marching 100 under the direction of Dr. Foster. I call on my colleagues in the Senate—and all those who love music—to join me in this tribute to an outstanding American, a gifted educator and band director without peer: Dr. William Foster.●

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE PATRICK T. SHEEDY

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Judge Patrick T. Sheedy, who retired last month in Milwaukee after 19 years as a Circuit Court Judge and eight years as Chief Judge for Milwaukee's District 1.

Pat Sheedy exemplifies everything that we hope to see in a judge in America. He possesses a brilliant legal mind, a compassionate attitude, and the wit to see the humor in almost every situation.

I am proud to say that Judge Sheedy is a complete product of our great state of Wisconsin. He was born in Green Bay and received his undergraduate and his law degree at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

In addition to serving 27 years on the bench, Judge Sheedy served his colleagues in a variety of capacities, including as past President of the Wisconsin Bar Association. But, I know his proudest legacy would be his six children and 12 grandchildren.

Mr. President, we all know of the difficult demands we place on judges in our country. The grueling schedule and stress of legal negotiations can test the patience of even the most reasonable among us. In these most tense moments, Judge Sheedy could diffuse the most trying situations with a bit of his well-known Irish charm and humor.

We all wish Judge Sheedy well in his retirement. But, the City of Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin will sorely miss a man who has given back so